NEW LIBRARY DIRECTOR ANNOUNCED

Welcome to Andrew W. White, who will become Wesleyan's next Caleb T. Shirtz University Librarian on July 2, 2018.

Andrew comes from Bates College, where he was the director of Academic and Client Services and served as the interim vice president for Information and Library Services. He worked extensively on technology and facilities issues, integrating academic support services into the library and promoting awareness of library services. Prior to Bates, he was at Connecticut College, working closely with faculty to match teaching closely with library collections to the library starting in 1974. His papers were processed in 2007, and it is the only one available in the Olin Library.

Andrew comes from Bates College, with whom he lived until his death on August 12, 1992.

Cage first performed at Wesleyan in 1955, both shocket and fascinating Wesleyan students with his prepared piano music. He returned to Wesleyan to perform many times, was a fellow at the Center for Advanced Studies in 1960, and was published by Wesleyan University Press. Because of his connection with Wesleyan, he donated part of his manuscript, correspondence, and book collections to the library starting in 1974. His papers were processed in 2007, and it is the only one available in the Olin Library.

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It is uncertain how John Cage personally arranged his books, but the collection in the Cage Book Collection was arranged by the Library of Congress Classification system. To browse the virtual shelves of the collection in OneSearch, the online catalog, type in “John Cage Book Collection,” select Wesleyan Books & Media, and further refine the search by selecting Special Collections & Archives under Library.

The items on the shelves range from oversized to the very small and are just as varied as his interests, inspirations, his works and his friends. His interests and inspirations include poetry of all forms, including Brazilian concrete poetry, sound poetry, and mesostic, his personal poetic form. He seemed to always be at the forefront and incorporated new technologies in his music-making, computer art, and video art.

Many of the items have been inscribed to John Cage by those who were his dear friends and sometime collaborators, those who wish they were, and many more. It was his practice to leave items of his own in the library as gifts, and his collection grew as a result of his own efforts. He was a great admirer of Marcel Duchamp, the surrealist and conceptual artist, who became a close and dear friend. Pictured here is the Cage Book Collection, a catalog of the exhibit Marcel Duchamp, Jasper Johns, Robert Rauschenberg, John Cage, which was held from January 12 to February 28, 1991, at the Contemporary Arts Center in Cincinnati, Ohio.

This manuscript, a late medieval collection of Latin sermons, caught my attention for a number of reasons. First, it is in very good condition. A few pages are missing from the front, but the binding is intact and one can flip through its pages with ease. It also seemed to me to be thoroughly used. Every page contains writing, and it is full of marginal notes, lines, and scribes all over the pages, in a variety of different hands and scripts from centuries of readers and writers. And while the handwriting was very difficult to read (handwriting has changed quite a bit in the last six centuries), I felt confident that I would be able to learn to read it. But what struck me most was that this manuscript had never been seriously studied before.

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THE JOHN CAGE BOOK COLLECTION

— MAGGIE M. LONG, SPECIAL COLLECTIONS CATALOGING LIBRARIAN —

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In my thesis, I explore the kinds of questions our artifact evokes. On March 1, 2018, Wesleyan gave special attention to variou-
s of history that play a role in developing stories we tell about objects of the past. My inquiries revolve around the theoretical conditions of making an object of a past that is far away. In this way, I ask questions about our contemporary con-
ideration and meaning making. I discuss Brant’s book as an example of allegory, and I discuss allegory as a means of writing and viewing history. I tell the story of the incunabula and the Almanack, and I investigate the implications of certain his-
torico-geographic choices with regards to source material and evidence. I contextualize the book’s entrance into Wesleyan’s collection from the acquired library of former Wesleyan president and university librarian Lothrop Stoddard, and collect in 1872 by Dr. George Brown Goode.

ENTRY IN JESSIE COHEN, ARCHAEOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS MANAGER —

READING AT AMY BLOOM AT LIBRARY PRIZE AWARD CEREMONY

The Friends were honored to have Shapiro-Silverstein Professor of Creative Writing and best-seller author Amy Bloom read from her new novel, White Houses, at the annual meeting of awards for the Friends of the Wesleyan Library Undergraduate Research Prize. White Houses is Bloom’s first historical fiction, illuminating the relationships between Theodore Roosevelt and Lorena Hickock, a prominent journalist, and against the backdrop of American history. The Friends of the Wesleyan Library Research Prize celebrates ex-
cellence in library research and writing. The first place prize of $500 was awarded to Elinor Weissberg ’20 for her paper “Understanding the American Liber-
tary’s Dance,” written for the History 315 course White Houses.


NEW ASSOCIATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

WELCOMING CLAUDIA WOLF

Claudia Wolf started as a temp in the Olín Library in January 2018 and was hired permanently in February 2018. Her main responsibilities are budget, payroll, accounting, and purchasing. Claudia brings a strong background in finance, attention to detail, time manage-
ment, and listening skills to help the library office run smoothly. Prior to Olín, she worked at the Green Street Teaching and Learning Center for 12 years and also worked at the Connecticut Work Order (CTW) Schools. She enjoys the variety of her job: working with students and faculty on many projects, and she is always happy to work with them and provide feedback. She looks forward to working with her new colleagues and learning more about the Olín Library.